

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 8 May 1951

SUBJECT Tirana Bombing of 19 February 1951

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1. [redacted] no one was injured as a result of the bomb which exploded in Tirana on 19 February 1951; the bomb, said to have consisted of a tin of compressed (sic) gasoline, was designed to explode [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] at the time of a meeting attended by General Hoxha and certain unspecified Soviet advisers. 25X1
2. [redacted] it is widely believed in Albania that the bombing had actually been staged by the Albanian authorities themselves in order to justify a purge. Albanians feel that this belief is supported by the reported subsequent mass arrest of some 1,000 Albanians (50 of whom were said to have been shot without trial and their families interned immediately thereafter);\* many members of the Albanian Army and the Police are said to have been among the 1,000 arrested. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] Two Albanian engineers (Nocka and Filipo) were also arrested.\*\* [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted]
3. [redacted] the bomb which had exploded in the Soviet Legation in Tirana had caused the death of three officers and five clerks and had wounded about ten other subordinate members of the staff. Immediately following the explosion, the Soviet armed guard at the Legation, and patrols of the Albanian Security Police, fired wildly into the crowd, reportedly killing an Albanian landowner named Thoma Katuldi, an Albanian workman named Pierrin Guraziu, a [redacted] doctor, six policemen, and a former Albanian deputy named Niko Lazo. 25X1
4. [redacted] the bombing has produced a state of panic throughout the country, as a result of which many non-Communists and suspected opponents of the regime have taken to the mountains, while others have succeeded in escaping to Yugoslavia. [redacted] The Albanian authorities are said to have made 300 arrests in Tirana, and 600 arrests in the provinces. 25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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-2-

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5. The same report states that the Peoples' Commissars of Tirana, Elbasan, Vlone and Berat have been imprisoned in Tirana for several (sic) months, and many other high-ranking members of the Communist Party have been purged.\*\*\* Spiro Pano and Rita Marko, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry, respectively, reportedly submitted their resignations immediately following the bombing attempt.\*\*\*
6. [redacted] work on communications across Albania, from east to west, is being accelerated; these measures are described as being more offensive than defensive in character. [redacted] a major police operation is being envisaged by the Soviets in order to root out any centers of foreign intelligence activity within the country.

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\*\* [redacted] Comment: In this connection, other information reports the execution of a certain Zheko (or Zhelo), and a Pjerin Guraziv.

\*\*\* [redacted] Comment: In point of time, the imprisonment of the Peoples' Commissars does not appear to be a consequence of the bomb explosion; their connection with the bombing, if any, is not apparent.

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\*\*\* [redacted] Comment: Tirana broadcast of 5 March 1951 reported their "release from duty for the purpose of being entrusted with other important duties." A subsequent broadcast of 2 April, however, stated that Rita Marko, "secretary of the Albanian Workers' Party Central Committee," had attended the Second Congress of the Albanian Trade Union of Education and Culture, which opened in Tirana on 1 April 1951.

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